

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 51 of 1891.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th December 1891.

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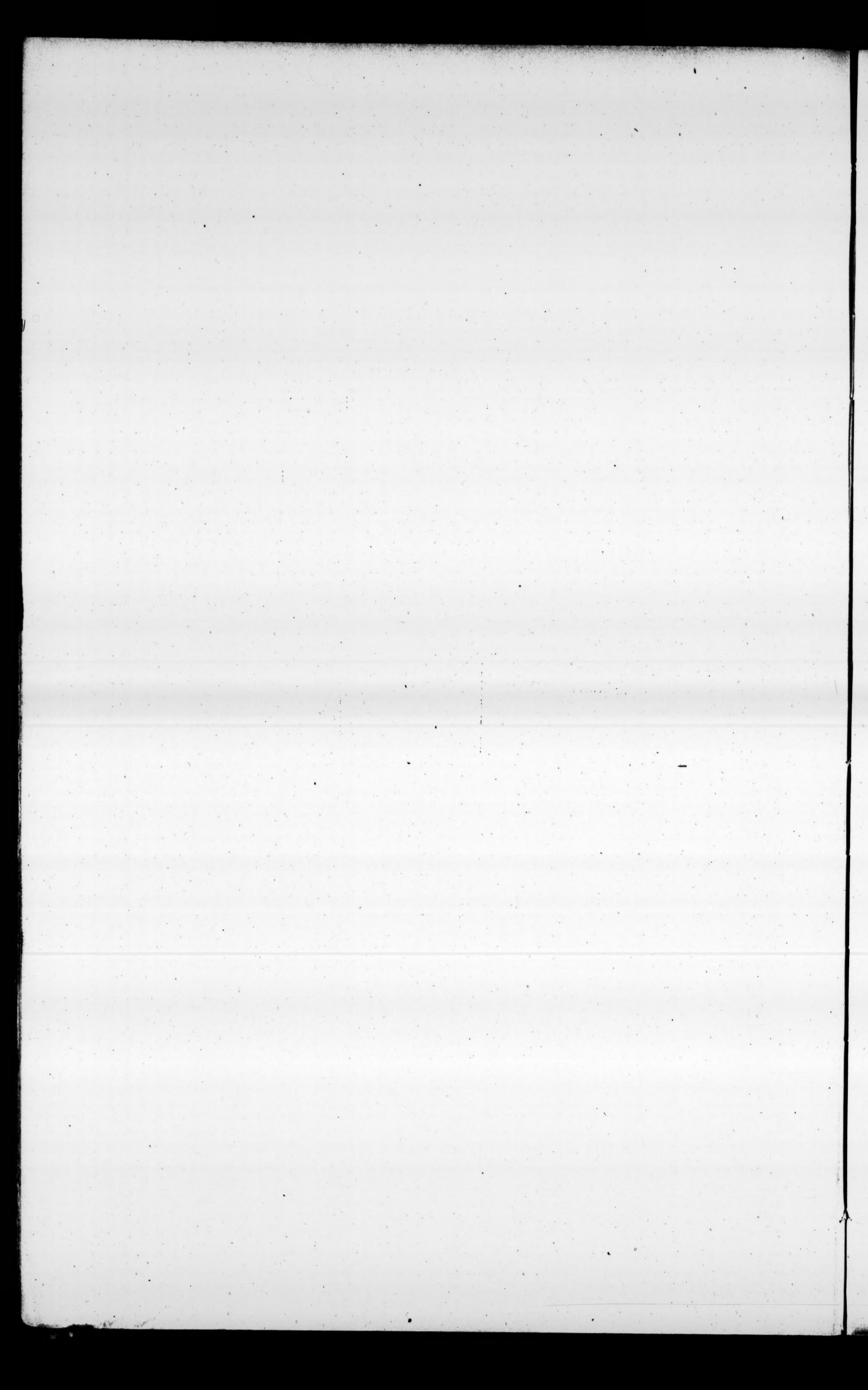
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Nil.			

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	" Ahmadí "	... Tangail, Mymensingh	600	
2	" Kaliyuga "	Calcutta	...	
3	" Kasipore Nivási "	Kasipore, Burrisal	280	30th November 1891.
4	" Navamihir "	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
5	" Uluberia Darpan "	Uluberia	700	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
6	" Hitakari "	Kushtea	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	" Bangavási "	Calcutta	20,000	12th December 1891.
8	" Banganívási "	Ditto	8,000	11th ditto.
9	" Burdwán Sanjivání "	Burdwan	335	8th ditto.
10	" Cháruvártá "	Sherepore, Mymensingh	400	23rd and 30th November and 7th December 1891.
11	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca	2,200	13th December 1891.
12	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	825	11th ditto.
13	" Grámvási "	Ramkristopore, Howrah	1,000	14th ditto.
14	" Hindu Ranjiká "	Beauleah, Rajshahye	212	9th ditto.
15	" Hitavádi "	Calcutta	...	12th ditto.
16	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Berhampore	...	11th ditto.
17	" Navayuga "	Calcutta	500	10th ditto.
18	" Prakriti "	Ditto	...	12th ditto.
19	" Pratikár "	Berhampore	609	11th ditto.
20	" Prithivi "	Calcutta	...	9th ditto.
21	" Rungpur Dikprakásh "	Kakinia, Rungpur	...	
22	" Sahachar "	Calcutta	800-1,000	9th ditto.
23	" Sahayogi "	Burrisal	342	5th ditto.
24	" Sakti "	Dacca	...	
25	" Samáj-o-Sáhitya "	Garibpore, Nuddea	1,000	
26	" Samaya "	Calcutta	3,000	11th ditto.
27	" Sanjivání "	Ditto	4,000	12th ditto.
28	" Sansodhini "	Chittagong	...	10th ditto.
29	" Sáraswat Patra "	Dacca	300	12th ditto.
30	" Som Prakásh "	Calcutta	600	14th ditto.
31	" Srimanta Sadagar "	Ditto	...	12th ditto.
32	" Sudhákár "	Ditto	3,100	11th ditto.
33	" Sulabh Samáchar "	Ditto	...	
<i>Daily.</i>				
34	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Calcutta	500	9th to 12th and 14th to 16th December 1891.
35	" Bengal Exchange Gazette "	Ditto	...	11th December 1891.
36	" Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká "	Ditto	1,000	13th to 17th December 1891.
37	" Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	1,500	11th, 12th and 14th to 17th December 1891.
38	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	
39	" Sulabh Dainik "	...	.....	16th December 1891.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	" Dacca Gazette "	... Dacca	... ....
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
41	" Darjeeling Mission ke Mäsik Samachár Patrika."	Darjeeling	... 60	
42	" Kashatriya Patriká "	Patna	... 250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	" Aryávarta "	Calcutta	... 750	
44	" Behar Bandhu "	Bankipore	... 500	10th December 1891.
45	" Bhárat Mitra "	Calcutta	... 1,200	10th ditto.
46	" Champarun Chandrika "	Bettiah	... 350	
47	" Desí Vyápári "	Calcutta	... ....
48	" Hindi Bangavásí "	Ditto	... ....	14th ditto.
49	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	Ditto	... 500	
50	" Uchit Baktá "	Ditto	... 4,500	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	" Al Punch "	Bankipore	... ....
52	" Anis "	Patna	... ....	7th ditto.
53	" Calcutta Punch "	Calcutta	... ....
54	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto	... ....	14th ditto.
55	" Mehre Monawar "	Mozufferpore	... ....	12th ditto.
56	" Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad"	Murshidabad	... 150	
57	" Setare Hind "	Arrah	... ....
58	" Urdu Guide and Darussaltanat "	Calcutta	... 340	11th ditto.
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
59	" Asha "	Cuttack	... 165	
60	" Echo "	Ditto	... ....
61	" Pradíp "	Ditto	... ....
62	" Samyabadi "	Ditto	... ....
63	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	Ditto	... ....
64	" Utkalprána "	Mayurbunj	... ....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
65	" Dipaka "	Cuttack	... ....
66	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	... 200	19th and 26th November 1891.
67	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	... 420	18th and 25th ditto,
68	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	... 420	21st and 28th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
69	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	... 480	
70	" Silchar "	Silchar	... 500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
71	" Srihatta Mihir "	Sylhet	... 332	



II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Navayuga*, of the 10th December, has the following :—

Police oppression and the Police Committee.

A high English official said some time ago that if a rebellion ever takes place in India it will be on account of police oppression. The prophecy, it is

NAVAYUGA,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

clear, cannot be true to the letter. But it appears, nevertheless, to receive an air of plausibility about it when one recalls to mind the oppressions that are committed by the police in the villages. When one remembers how the police, on a trifling pretext, enters into the zenana of a respectable house, scatters domestic utensils and furniture pell-mell on all sides, torments the inmates of the house in various ways, nay, drags respectable ladies out of the seclusion of the zenana and subjects them to unspeakable indignities; when one calls to mind how the police, bribed by the zemindar, oppresses his enemy, makes over a poor man's cattle to the butcher, sets fire to his house, keeps his wife and children, tied hand and foot, lying in the burning sun, and cruelly beats the poor man himself on the back; when one further calls to mind how the daroga or jemadar, made indignant by the dignified and scornful rejection of his wicked proposal by some poor and helpless but chaste widow, sends two constables at dusk to bring her by force; how the constables faithfully execute the commission, and how the police dignitary violates the poor widow, thereby branding her with ineffaceable infamy;—one is really filled with anger and astonishment. In fact, the more one talks of the misdeeds of the police, the more interminable becomes the tale of sorrow and horror. Under the civilised administration of the civilised English Government, oppression of this kind is taking place every day in every village. But Government takes no notice of these oppressions because, in its eye, the oppressed are hardly human beings. If the people of this country had sufficient strength and courage, this police oppression would have most probably led to a rebellion.

It is a salient feature of English rule in this country to appoint Commissions and Committees to report on all sorts of things. These Commissions and Committees are duly constituted, duly carry on their proceedings, and duly submit their reports. We have had in this way the Education Commission and the Public Service Commission. It is not easy to see that these Commissions and Committees serve any other earthly purpose except evincing a mere desire on the part of Government to remove the grievances of the people. Under the direction of the Government of India, a Police Committee was duly constituted in Bengal, and that Committee duly held its proceedings and duly submitted a report; but the report makes no reference whatever to the chief grievance of the people, namely, police oppression. Will not the generous English Government try to put a stop to the oppression by the police and make the police preservers of the peace in the truest sense of the words. We had hoped that Government would on the present occasion attend to these things; but we are disappointed. The Police Committee, like other Commissions and Committees, has ended in a show.

We have no hesitation in saying that the present police system is as prolific a source of sin in the country as the excise system, and that both these systems are deep stains on British rule in this country. How long will the civilised English Government delay wiping away these two stains?

2. A correspondent of the *Samay*, of the 11th December, complains that a bad chowkidar in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh the punchayet of Nagar Bhajanai, under the jurisdiction of the Mirzapore outpost in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, has appointed Jagannath Changa, a blackguard of the first water in the village as chowkidar in preference to many men of good character who stood candidates for the post. Since his appointment this chowkidar has enticed away the wife of one Jayanath Changa, a poor man of the neighbouring village of Autpara, and has tried to commit outrage upon a woman named Baishnavdasi, who was placed in his custody. It is very strange that chowkidars entrusted with the preservation of the peace should be so oppressive during the orderly administration of the English Government.

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

3. The *Banganivasi*, of the 11th December, cannot approve of the Lieutenant-Governor's decision that the Magistrate will determine whether the proposed chowkidari law shall be extended to his district or not. His

The Resolution on [the Report of the Police Committee.] Honour says that the law may be extended to any village if only the villagers are considered by the Magistrate able to pay the chowkidari tax. Now, it is not at all probable that a District Magistrate will have a personal knowledge of the condition of the inhabitants of every village comprised in his district. His knowledge of the mofussil is knowledge obtained through the police. It is therefore the police which will practically decide the question of the ability to pay the chowkidar tax, and there should therefore be no doubt whatever that not a single village will be exempted from the tax.

Again, punchayets will be established and the chowkidari tax will be levied in all villages to which the proposed law may be extended by the Magistrate. The villagers will have no control over the chowkidar, and will be unable to call the chowkidar to account if he does not go out on his night's rounds. The chowkidars will not respect the villagers, will come to look upon themselves as khas servants of Government, and will therefore give themselves high airs. And not even the punchayet, whether appointed or elected, will have authority over them, for although he will appoint the chowkidar, his appointment will require the sanction of the Magistrate. The chowkidar will not certainly fail to see from this that the punchayet's power has been materially curtailed.

Government seems to think that by establishing a punchayet in every village it will have granted an increased measure of self-government to the villagers; but what these villagers themselves believe is that the step which Government is about to take will result in a material curtailment of that privilege; for the introduction of the proposed punchayet system in every village will have the effect of depriving the villagers of the powers relating to the preservation of the peace in their own village which they possess at present.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th 1891.

4. The *Bangavasi*, of the 12th December, criticises the recommendations of the Police Committee in regard to the village police, and the opinions passed thereon by the

Lieutenant-Governor:—

(1) The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the Chowkidari Act should be extended to all villages that are capable of paying the chowkidari tax. The result of this will be that Bengal will be divided into innumerable blocks. The Magistrate of a district will be empowered to extend the Chowkidari Act to any place within his jurisdiction. It is therefore clear that even villages which enjoy peace and security without a chowkidar must now pay the chowkidari tax, and that not in a single village will chowkidars henceforward remain servants of the villagers. Such is the improvement that has been suggested by the Committee!

(2) The Lieutenant-Governor has passed no opinion on the recommendation of the Committee that the punchayet will now fix the number of chowkidars for any particular place subject to the approval of the Magistrate. This is another of the Commission's improvements, and one which has been subscribed to by even a man like Raja Peary Mohun Mukherji! But Government's opinion on this point will not be known so long as the Bill to amend the Chowkidari Act is not published.

(3) The Committee has proposed that the chowkidars should receive salaries varying from three to six rupees according to the circumstances of the people of the village in which they will serve. The Lieutenant-Governor proposes to fix the minimum pay at two rupees in very poor villages, the number of which, however, His Honour does not consider to be very large. But many people think that the number of such villages is very large.

(4) The Lieutenant-Governor has done right in rejecting the Committee's recommendation that 25 per cent. over and above the pay of the chowkidar should be charged as the expense of realising the chowkidari tax, and that the proceeds of the tax should be deposited in the Government treasury at the head-quarters of the district or of the subdivision. His Honour's proposal to keep the charge of realisation, in most cases, at the present rate, and to leave the work of collection in the hands of the punchayets is a good one.

(5) The proposal to give chowkidars the power of arresting is very objectionable. Even the power of the regular police in this respect ought to be reduced. The new power proposed to be conferred on the chowkidars will only lead to the oppression of the quiet and ignorant villagers.

(6) The Lieutenant-Governor has passed no opinion on the Committee's recommendation that a remedy should be provided for the zemindar in cases in which the chowkidar claims as *chakran* land any land for which the zemindar pays revenue, and that in matters relating to the chowkidari police the Collector should be subject to the control of the Commissioner. The first of these recommendations is approved of by the writer.

(7) It is hoped that the Bengal Council will thoroughly discuss the proposal to increase the powers conferred upon the Lieutenant-Governor by the Chowkidari Act.

(8) The Lieutenant-Governor approves of the Committee's recommendation that reports regarding diseases and the state of the crops should not be made, as at present, by the chowkidars but through the chowkidars by the punchayet. This is right. So long as the chowkidars are looked to for information, such reports will not be trustworthy.

5. The *Prakriti*, of the 12th December, believes that the way in which Arming the Calcutta Police. the Calcutta police force has been armed after the Shambazar riot case will increase police oppression.

How many occasions have there been in Calcutta for the police arming itself in this way?

6. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 13th December, objects to the recommendation of the Police Committee to give to the A proposal regarding the village chowkidar the power to arrest offenders, on the ground that the chowkidar, who will not be so much

feared and respected as regular police officers are, will only get themselves thrashed in making arrests, that even if he makes arrests he will, if bribed, let off arrested persons, and that he will fasten his own crimes upon innocent people. This is sure to take place in thinly populated villages.

The writer takes credit to himself for having suggested the recommendation of the Committee that reports about the state of the crops and other matters are to be sent in writing by the punchayet through the chowkidar. But he is sorry that the Committee has not accepted his further suggestion to the effect that there should be a paid punchayet on a salary of six rupees who will furnish such reports and exercise control over the chowkidar, the chowkidar being paid by the punchayet out of his own pay.

7. The same paper hears that the District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, mercilessly beat a constable the other day and that his treatment of police officers is very bad.

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 5th, 1891.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1891.

DACCA PRAKASH

The District Superintendent of Police, Dacca.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Nov. 30th, 1891.

KASIPUR NIVASI

An additional judge for Burrisal.

Burrusal has to work very hard owing to the large number of cases in his court, and says that it would be well to appoint an additional Judge there.

9. The same paper says that owing to the multifarious nature of their duties, the District Magistrates have now to work harder than before. The hands of the Deputy Magistrates, too, are full. In this state of things His Honour has ruled that the cross-examination of witnesses present at court on any particular day should not be postponed to another day. The writer fears that this order has caused much inconvenience to Magistrates, whose health may break down under such hard work.

10. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 8th December, expresses great regret at the transfer from Cutwa of Manmatha Babu, the First Munsif of that place.

The Babu is a very able and impartial judicial officer, and during his stay at Cutwa endeared himself to all sections of the community by his courtesy and

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1891.

affability. The writer requests the District Judge of Burdwan to consider if he cannot yet do anything to get Manmatha Babu's transfer cancelled by Government.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

11. The *Sansodhini*, of the 10th December, is very glad to receive excellent reports about Mr. Manisty's honesty and judicial ability. He has already displayed great judicial ability in several criminal appeals, and he is dead

against corruption. He is so scrupulously honest that he personally pays the proper price of every article he buys.

12. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 11th December, humourously observes that the printer's d—l who

The Munsifs.

printed "মুসেক বিয়োগ" (death of Munsifs) for

"মুসেক নিয়োগ" (appointment of Munsifs) unconsciously uttered a great truth, for the Munsif from the very day of his appointment travels with quick steps towards' Plutos' domain. The Munsif has to work in court from 10-30 A.M. to 7-30 P.M. He has besides to write judgements at home in the morning and at night. His whole life is occupied with the study of laws and precedents, and he knows not of any other object in life or of any other work than this. His health breaks down under this hard work, and by the time he becomes a Sub-Judge he is found attacked with vertigo or diabetes, which hastens his end. If the Judges of the High Court are cruel enough to make rules regarding a Munsif's work as strict as those that have been made regarding a Deputy Magistrate's work, there will be no great interval between the appointment of a Munsif and his death. There should be a limit to pressure. Things are crushed under excessive pressure just as the duck that laid golden eggs was killed by excessive feeding.

13. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 12th December, says that

Pressure of work in the Munsif's Court, Sylhet.
owing to pressure of work the Munsif of Sylhet has to work up to 7 or 8, and sometimes up to 9

in the evening, and the parties, the pleaders, and particularly the witnesses, have to suffer a good deal of inconvenience owing to this. The writer says that the public will be greatly benefited if the authorities make proper arrangements for the transaction of business in the Munsif's Court.

14. The *Sanjivani*, of the 12th December, says that there will be no end to

Administration of criminal justice.
failure of justice so long as the executive and judicial functions are not vested in different officers.

If Government therefore wishes to see failure of justice at an end, it must vest those functions in different officers. But that will necessitate increased expenditure, and Government, though desiring a satisfactory administration of criminal justice, is not prepared to incur this additional expense.

There is, however, another way in which Government can minimise injustice and oppression without incurring additional expenditure. Much mischief is now done by placing inexperienced youths in charge of subdivisions—an honour which turns their heads and leads them to do all sorts of wrong things. It is therefore desirable that all new Deputy Magistrates should be trained at least for a space of four or five years in the head-quarters of districts, and that only such of them as prove themselves after that period able, cool-headed, and proficient in the law should be entrusted with the charge of sub-divisions. It is strange that Government never thinks of introducing this inexpensive reform into the criminal administration.

15. The *Bangavasi*, of the 12th December, says that one Dhananjay Hal-

dar of Bogra stood charged with having murdered his wife and was tried at the Pubna Sessions Court.

The sentence in a case of wife-murder.
The Judge and the Assessors did not agree, but capital sentence was nevertheless passed upon the accused, and for the confirmation thereof the case was referred to the High Court. The reference was heard by the Hon'ble Justices Norris and O'Kinealy, who agreed with the Judge, but commuted the sentence to one of transportation for life. The writer says that, looking at the matter from the point of view of the law, full justice has been done; but when the murder was clearly the effect of grave provocation

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th 1891.

received by the accused from his wife, neither capital sentence nor a sentence of transportation for life ought to have been passed upon him. Men committing serious offences under provocation have been known to go scot-free.

(d)—*Education.*

16. The *Sansodhini*, of the 10th December, finds fault with the action of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Chittagong, in fining certain candidates in the Middle Vernacular examination lately held at Chittagong some minutes, time for the offence of having written their answers with a wider margin than what that officer thought proper. The Deputy Inspector ought to have told the candidates on the first day of the examination how much margin was to be left, and he should have then inflicted pecuniary punishments upon offending candidates. It was wrong to disturb and alarm the candidates in this way when they were engaged in answering questions. It is hoped that some consideration will be made in favour of these candidates in the awarding of marks.

17. The same paper considers it extremely anomalous that Government, which is so anxious about the moral improvement of school-boys, keeps men of bad character in its service. Let Government be only strict about the character of its servants and the people will take care of their morality from the wholesome fear that will be caused by its action.

18. The *Navayuga*, of the 10th December, is glad to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders requiring all the F. A. students of the Presidency College to learn gymnastics. The writer suggests that a similar order should be issued to all students in all the colleges.

19. The *Samay*, of the 11th December, fully approves of the rule made by the Principal of the Presidency College requiring all students of the 1st and 3rd year classes, with the exception of those who will produce medical certificates declaring them physically weak, to undergo an examination in gymnastics.

20. The same paper says that if Sir Alfred Croft can introduce in the curriculum of the Entrance Examination the change which he proposes to introduce in it, he will certainly earn the gratitude of the public. The change will effect an increase in the number of medical practitioners.

21. The same paper says that the Tour Resolution of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has, within this short time, borne good fruit. The Director of Public Instruction, who had been so long during his leisure hours passing his time at his ease and visiting fairs and festive scenes, is now, under the strict orders passed by the Lieutenant-Governor, inspecting mofussil schools and colleges. He lately went to inspect the Midnapur College. But the writer has great doubts about the good effects of actions done under pressure from superior officers and against one's own wish. Some say that Sir Alfred will take three months' leave, others that he will take two years' furlough, and some are even heard to say that he will retire from the service. The writer does not know which of these statements is correct, and considers it probable that Sir Alfred will take leave to avoid the trouble of going out on inspection tours.

22. The *Sudhakar*, of the 11th December, has heard it rumoured that Sir Charles Elliott intends to abolish the graded system in the Education Department. The maximum salary for natives in that Department will be Rs. 250, and for those brought from England Rs. 500. The rumour may be true or false, but it is certain that Government is bent upon laying the axe at the root of the Education Department.

23. The *Banganivasi*, of the 11th December, will be glad if the proposal to prevent overcrowding in the classes in all Entrance schools is given effect to.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

SANSODHINI.

NAVAYUGA,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

SAMAY.

SAMAY.

SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 11th 1891.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

BANGANIVASI.
Dec. 11th, 1891.

24. The same paper commends the action of the authorities in requiring Physical education without food. the students of the Calcutta Presidency College to practise and undergo an examination in gymnastics.

The pupils of the higher classes in all schools should be made to practise physical exercise. It is to be hoped that the proprietors of all private schools and colleges also will make the necessary arrangements for this purpose. But the question that readily arises in this connection is—can physical exercise alone, without good and sufficient food, ensure a sound mind in a sound body? Not to speak of nutritious food, the Indians cannot at present afford to have even sufficient meals. The Indian boy may learn the manly sports and games which are loved by Englishmen, and it is well that he has begun to learn them; but where will he get the Englishman's strength to practise these games? Physical exercise without food will only have a weakening and wasting effect on the body.

BANGAVASI.
Dec. 12th, 1891.

25. The *Bangavasi*, of the 12th December, says that religious education to be effective ought to begin in childhood. But Hindu religious education.

the schools of this country, connected as they are, directly or indirectly and in a greater or less degree, with Government, cannot impart this education. Nor would the necessity, which schools and colleges in this country are under, of adapting their labours to the hard requirements of the University examinations, allow of their undertaking the large and difficult subject of religious education even if they had the inclination to do so. There are now, in the country, schools under purely Hindu management; but not even there can religious education be imparted. For they find in the University an insuperable difficulty in the way of enlarging their programme so as to include within it the important subject of religious education. The Education Commission saw both these difficulties.

The question of religious education is becoming more and more difficult. Under the Hindu rule, the rulers themselves took charge of the religious education of their subjects. Under the Mussulman rule, the religious education of the Hindus was not much interfered with. Nor did it receive much check in the early days of English rule, under the East India Company—aye, the government of the East India Company took an interest in the religious education of the Hindus, and that is why, in 1824, the Sanskrit College was established in spite of the very strong opposition offered by the party of reformers headed by Raja Rammohun Roy. But the object with which the Sanskrit College was set up is now lost sight of. With the defeat of the orientalists in their controversy with the occidentalists under Lord Macaulay, the cause of Hindu religious education has been seriously imperilled. No attempt or movement in behalf of religious education has been possible after that defeat; and so the Hindu is now being carried by the strong tide of English education away from his manners, morality and religion.

PRAKRITI.
Dec. 12th, 1891.

26. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 12th December, says that the The Bagnan school in the Uluberia subdivision of the Howrah authorities of the Education Department have asked the head-master of the Bagnan school in the Uluberia district to increase the school fees of the boys and to take a smaller aid from Government. If this instruction is carried out, a large number of students will have to leave the school, for the people of Bagnan and the adjacent villages are not rich.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

27. The *Som Prakash*, of the 14th December, says that as no land suited for building purposes is at present available near the Senate House, the best course for the authorities of the University to take in the matter of providing increased accommodation will be to construct, as a temporary measure, a wing with verandahs on each side of the Senate House on the lands adjoining it now lying unoccupied, and two verandahs, one above another, inside the Senate House leaving sufficient space in the middle of the hall.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SAHAYOGI,
Dec. 5th, 1891.

28. The *Sahayogi*, of the 5th December, says that the decision of the Burrusal Municipality in the case of its midwife has not given satisfaction all round. It is said that Nawab Ashanulla Khan will discontinue his monthly

The midwife scandal in the Bur-

risal Municipality.

grant of Rs. 25 for the maintenance of a midwife by the municipality. There can be no other reason for this than the midwife scandal. So the municipality must now go without a midwife.

29. The *Charuvarta*, of the 7th December, says that many roads and bridges in Sherpore are in a bad condition this year. The Sherpore Municipality in the Mymensingh district. The municipality has served notices upon the owners of filthy tanks to remove the silt therefrom. Now that the municipality has turned its attention to these things, the writer will be glad to see tanks overgrown with aquatic plants cleared of plants and silt.

The Chamars living in the centre of Sherpore are in the habit of drying raw skin on the side of the public roads along which the Municipal Commissioners and the police officers always pass. The bad smell emitted by these skins is injurious to the public health. The writer thinks that it is necessary to remedy the evil.

30. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 8th December, has learnt that the Magistrate of Burdwan has advised the Chairman of the local Municipality to take steps for the levy of the latrine-tax on all holdings within the municipality, including gardens and tanks, in which there are no latrines, in disregard of the resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Commissioners exempting such holdings from the tax in question. Local Self-Government in Burdwan.

The Magistrate is also said to have remarked that those among the Commissioners who had voted for the resolution which, in the opinion of both the Magistrate and the Municipal Chairman, was opposed to the law, should be informed that the unconstitutional action of which they had been guilty would be placed on record and taken note of when the time should come for considering their fitness for any honorary office or titles of distinction. Though these are not the exact words employed by the Magistrate, they at any rate correctly enough express the threat conveyed by him. How honoured is self-government! Mr. Monahan was officiating as Magistrate of Burdwan when he used this language. He was then only an Assistant Magistrate of five or six years' standing in the Civil Service, and not even a pucca Joint-Magistrate, and it is no wonder that he should have been guilty of so much rashness. The writer has been told that when the Lieutenant-Governor came to Memari to inspect the breaches in the Damodar embankment, His Honour expressed his surprise at finding so very young a Civilian in charge of so large and important a district as Burdwan. Certainly Mr. Monahan's appointment was not a wise one.

The Chairman has, at the Magistrate's advice, directed the Vice-Chairman to levy the latrine-tax on all gardens and tanks within the Burdwan Municipality. Now, both these functionaries are under the law bound to give effect to the decisions of the Commissioners passed at a meeting, no matter whether or no such decisions are illegal, until such decisions are set aside by Government, the only authority which can legally set them aside. It is clear, therefore, that the Chairman's order to the Vice-Chairman in this matter is an illegal one, and the latter is not bound to carry it out. It then comes to this that if, on the one hand, the Vice-Chairman refuses to carry out the order there will be a fiasco, and if, on the other, he carries it out, the municipality will be probably involved in litigation with the rate-payers, which will mean loss of money to both parties. Under these circumstances, it behoves the Commissioners to refer to Government for an authoritative interpretation of the law on the point in dispute.

31. The *Banganivasi*, of the 11th December, says that the proposal was once before made to increase the salary of the present Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, and was disallowed by the Commissioners after much discussion. The question of increasing Mr. Lee's salary. Have the reasons which then led to the rejection of the proposal ceased to exist now? The only point in Mr. Lee's favour now is that, since that time, he has grown a little older in the service of the municipality. But there has not been much improvement of the municipality under his administration. Cannot good men be found for the Chairmanship for Rs. 2,500 a month? Why waste the rate-payers' money in this way—money, which may be better spent in removing their municipal wants? It is to be hoped that the

CHARUVARTA
Dec. 7th, 1891.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1891.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

Commissioners will be firm, and disregard the Chairman's threat to leave their service if his salary is not increased.

SUDHAKAR
Dec. 11th, 1891.

32. The *Sudhakar*, of the 11th December, says that those members of the Calcutta Municipality who, to gain favour at the hands of the Chairman, are trying to pay him Rs. 500 as house-allowance in addition to his salary

of Rs. 2,500, are not doing justice to the poor rate-payers. Men like them are quite unfit to represent the public.

The Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta and their Chairman.
33. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 13th December, says that the "devoted" members of the Calcutta Municipality are desirous of paying Mr. Lee, their Chairman, Rs. 500 as house-allowance in addition to his salary

of Rs. 2,500, and they will soon consider the question at a meeting. It is hoped that the dutiful and God-fearing members will not waste the rate-payers' money in this way. If Mr. Lee had been in his former post, he would not have been now drawing a higher salary than Rs. 1,500. If he is not satisfied with Rs. 2,500, it would be better to dispense with his services.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

34. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 10th December, says that the Behar zemindars estimate the cost of the proposed cadastral survey at upwards of two crores of rupees. Where will this money come from? Government bore the cost of the survey in Sonpur in Durbhunga. Why should it not also bear the cost of the proposed survey in Behar?

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

35. The *Sansodhini*, of the 10th December, says that the noble object which Government had in view in making the last *chap* survey in Chittagong will be defeated by the rejection of all previous surveys. The rejection is giving rise to serious difficulties. That all questions relating to the land could be clearly settled in Dacca in the course of the *thak* survey there is because all tenures there are of the nature of *tarafs*. But there are tenures of various kinds in Chittagong, such as *taraf*, *nayabad*, *lakhiraj* and *lakhiraj bahali*. So a tenant holding *taraf*, *nayabad* and *lakhiraj* will have clearly an interest in having the best portions of his land recorded as *lakhiraj* land, and if he can succeed in having the record so made out, both Government and the zemindar will be losers. It will certainly be open to the zemindar to protect his lawful rights by litigation. But he will be harassed if he has to sue every tenant in this way.

Again, the present survey will increase the revenue not only of *nayabad* lands but also of *taraf* lands, since the lands of the latter description are being remeasured. The result is that excess land is being found which is being assessed to revenue as *gunjais*.

The case would not have been so bad if these excess lands had been assessed to revenue as *taraf* lands, but they will be assessed to revenue as *nayabad* lands. During the last survey of the *nayabad* lands, the revenue was raised at one stroke from one to three lakhs, and the result was that many taluqdars had to give up their lands to Government owing to the unduly high revenue. Mr. Kirkwood expects to raise the revenue of those lands this time from three to six lakhs. One shudders to think of the consequences of this enormous increase of revenue. The revenue assessment at Cox's Bazar has been so high as to exceed belief.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 16th, 1891.

36. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 16th December, condemns the practice of many Bengal zemindars of entrusting the management of their estates to their servants while they themselves live in Calcutta, Darjeeling, or Simla,

Absentee landlordism in Bengal.
and spend their time in amusements and festivities. A few of these absentee landlords even go to England in disregard of caste rules and restrictions. For how many days in the year does the Maharaja of Cooch Behar live in his own capital? Every zemindar ought to live on his estate and personally attend to its affairs. It behoves His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to administer a sharp reprimand to these absentee landlords in Bengal. The evil of absentee landlordism, if not promptly checked, will in time convert Bengal into another Ireland.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

37. A correspondent of the *Samay*, of the 11th December, says that the

Want of a road in Madanpur, Kaligung, Nuddea district. road running through Chanduria in Madanpur in

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

Kaligung has suffered much from the encroachments of the Ganges, and complains of the great inconvenience which the public are put to on this account. Government should construct a new road. It is said that a petition for a new road was made by some people to the Chairman of the District Board of Nuddea. But the Chairman rejected the petition, saying that the hands of the District Board were already full and that it could not therefore do anything in the matter at present.

38. The *Gramvasi*, of the 14th December, says that if the repair of village

Repair of village roads in the Howrah District. roads in the Howrah district is undertaken now when they are all dry, it will be greatly to the advantage of the public. But the District Board is

GRAMVASI,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

quite indifferent to this matter. Repairs are not taken in hand until the rains set in. Will this thing be done for ever in this wrong way?

39. The same paper says that owing to shortness of funds the Howrah

The proposed Syampur-Uluberia road in the Howrah district. District Board will not be able to undertake the construction of the proposed Syampur-Uluberia road; but it will have to spend a large sum of money on the repair of the Benares road!

GRAMVASI.

40. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 23rd and 30th November,

A postal complaint from Sherpore, in the Mymensingh district. says that as letters are now despatched from Mymensing to Sherpore in the morning, no letter containing any news of the day of despatch can be sent. The

CHARUVARTA,
Nov. 23rd 30th, 1891.

letters so sent reach Sherpore at night and are delivered on the following day, that is, on the third day of their posting. Thus the people of Sherpore, who live only 32 miles away from Mymensing, can get no news by post which is not at least three days old. A tramway from Dacca to Sivalaya will prevent this delay in the transmission of letters; but as there is no chance of a speedy construction of the tramway in question, other arrangements should be made for a speedier delivery at Sherpore of letters posted at Mymensing.

41. The *Sahayogi*, of the 5th December, says that Government will be

The opium revenue. able to do without the opium revenue if it relieves

SAHAYOGI,
Dec. 5th, 1891.

India of the many unjust charges which it has to bear at present, and if it becomes a little more discreet and frugal in its expenditure.

42. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 8th December, has no doubt that much

Official tours. good will be done to the country if effect is given to the instructions contained in the Lieutenant-

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1891.

Governor's recent Tour Resolution. It is only when tours are made through the mofussil by the officials of Government that the people find it possible to make known to them their real wants and grievances. But the object of these tours will not be gained if the people are not enabled to unburden themselves before the officials freely and fearlessly. The practice of almost all rulers in ancient times, and of some even at the present time, of going about among their subjects in disguise, was dictated by the consideration that in this way alone could they acquaint themselves with the opinion secretly entertained by the masses regarding their administration. Of course, it is not meant to be suggested that the officials should exactly follow this practice, but what is required is that they should, on the occasion of their mofussil tours, give proof of their affability, candour and large-heartedness, and mix with the people, engage in friendly conversation with them, and remove their fears, so that they may tell everything they have got to say. How can a Magistrate on tour learn the condition of the people and the country if the people find it much too venturesome to approach him, and if his arrival in a village terrifies the villagers into flight? The Europeans are, as a rule, greatly feared by people in the mofussil, who appear to be in dread of their very lives if they are required to come near one of the ruling race. The ruler stands in the

position of a father to his people, but the natives of the country are not able for fear to come near their European rulers ; and their fear is not unreasonable. Many Europeans choose to look angry and ferocious in the presence of natives and look down upon the latter. Many again do not consider the natives even as human beings. Instead of being kindly talked to, the native is only frowned upon. Of course all District Magistrates are not men of this description ; but as it is often a difficult task for a native to decide who is and who is not a ferocious man, he considers it best to keep himself at a distance from every one of them. Again the Magistrates, when out on tour, only see and converse with the big natives, and do not evince any desire to mix with ordinary people. For this reason the mofussil tours of the officials often prove infructuous. Many matters relating to the mofussil are, indeed, referred to in the reports of the Magistrates, but these references and statements are often erroneous.

The officials should, therefore, always make themselves accessible to and mix freely with the people on the occasion of these tours, encourage them by sweet words and kind enquiries, give them advice calculated to improve their condition, and endeavour to supply their wants. This will enhance the dignity of the officials and raise them in the love and estimation of the people, and at the same time remove, as between ruler and ruled, all cause of dissatisfaction and ill-feeling.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 5th, 1891.

43. The *Sahachar*, of the 9th December, has the following on the subject of volunteering for Bengalis :—Early marriage has practically ceased to exist in Bengali society ; and

The volunteering question.
the Bengali of the present day is a taller, handsomer and stouter man than his ancestors. Gymnastics are now practised in all the schools of the country. What foreigners choose to call the cowardliness of the Bengali is not really fear or cowardice. The Bengali is very particular about his honour. He will not, if he can help it, quarrel with a drunken navvy. It is not in his temper to unnecessarily pick a quarrel with anybody. He will not, for instance, enter into a railway carriage in which there are one or more low class Europeans who would be likely to quarrel with him for his being a native. A European killing a native will probably be let off with only a fine of Rs 25. Let only one witness come forward and say that "it was the native who struck first and the European only struck in self-defence," and the European accused goes scot-free. But a native gets six months' imprisonment for giving only one blow to a European. It was much the same in France during the Second Empire, when any one who had at any time opposed the Emperor was sent to jail by the police and the law courts for the most trivial offences. Will anybody say that the Frenchman is a coward ? And yet the Frenchman of the period was obliged, owing to the tyranny of the law and the judiciary, to put up with the charge of cowardice. The Anglo-Indians possess very short memories. They are still found to say that the English have come into sovereign power in India after the Mussulmans. But, as a matter of fact, when the English power was established in India with the consent of the people, the Moghul Emperor was a captive in the Mahratta camp, and Hindu ascendency was an undisputed fact. Every Bengali in those days knew how to wield the gun and the sword. The Bengali *lathial* (clubman), the Bengali Bowman, and the Bengali artilleryman have always enjoyed high reputation. Even now the Sikh will hardly dare, sword in hand, to fight with the Bengali *lathial*. During the fight on the Mazra hill, the British soldiers noticed with dismay the unerring aim of the Boer riflemen and were compelled to beat a precipitate retreat. The Bengalis, employed as *beldars* in the plantations, are excellent shots, and seldom miss their aim. Just enrol a Bengali as a volunteer, and you will see that, before the year is out, he has carried off all the prizes for the best shooting. The Anglo-Indians do not know all this, but Colonel Sterndale does. The Colonel mixes with the Bengalis and knows them well. He it was who once wrote in the *Indian Daily News* newspaper that if Bengalis were enrolled as volunteers and placed under his command they would not be found unfit. When the natives can become sepoys, why cannot they become volunteers as well ? As regards Bengal, it may be safely said that if the right of volunteering were judiciously conferred on the Bengalis, they would not be found inferior to *khas* Europeans in discipline, courage, or shooting. It is true there are many Anglo-Indians who lose patience at the idea of permitting Bengalis to become volunteers.

That they do so is because the Bengalis have opened the eyes of the people all over the country. But this mighty and beneficial result is really due to English education which is doing its own work. You cannot with your hand put back the swelling tide of the sea. It has therefore become extremely necessary to give effect to General Dormer's proposals for permitting the Indians to become volunteers.

44. The *Navayuga*, of the 10th December, says that for the last three years the demand for Liverpool salt has been gradually decreasing. This is not due, however, to any newly awakened desire among the natives to use country salt. It is due to the salt duty. Since the imposition of the salt duty less salt has been sold in the country. The family which formerly bought one pice worth of salt now contents itself with half-a-pice worth of it.

45. The *Samay*, of the 11th December, has the following:—
Ours is a Christian Government, but it is matter for consideration whether it proves itself Christian in its actions and measures. What we now propose to consider is whether the dominion we really live in is the dominion of a Christian Government or the dominion of that Satan whom we find mentioned in the Bible.

The cardinal teaching of Christianity is that men should love one another like brothers. The great Jesus shed his blood on the Cross for the salvation of the Jewish people. Jesus was born for the good of others, and he also suffered a most cruel death for the good of others. Can those then who make no scruple of killing men like grim furies be the followers of that noble religion of love and of its great founder? Does the Christian Government prove itself Christian when it kills men by administering to them the poison of opium and liquor?

We should not speak so plainly or pointedly if our Government were any other than a Christian Government. The world is greatly indebted to the Christians. They have swept many abuses and oppressions off the face of the earth. They have abolished slavery and the traffic in human flesh. They have introduced a new era in the world's history by a satisfactory administration of justice, by the establishment of a peaceful and orderly administration, and by progress in the arts and sciences. One is overcome with grief and astonishment to think that the men who have held the torch of enlightenment before benighted humanity in order to show it the way to a better state of life are killing men indirectly, if not directly, by the sale of poison.

The lively and affectionate Empress of India, Mother Victoria, presented with her own hand the cup of opium and liquor to her 270 millions of devoted and destitute Indian children, and addressed them as follows through the English Government in India:—"Children! drink liquor, eat opium, and smoke ganja. As you cannot drink costly liquor I have taken care to provide you with cheap liquor." And no sooner were these words spoken than outstills were established all over the country. Mother Victoria speaks thus in her laws:—"Children, drink wine but do not be disorderly on pain of arrest by the police. You may, however, have your fill of opium and ganja." Although the Queen has no direct connection with the administration of India, she must be held responsible for every act of the Government of India, good or bad, because she has assumed the title of Empress of India. And that is why we say all this in sorrow.

The English Government has monopolised every lucrative trade in the country. The country is being ruined by the unrestricted use of intoxicants. In its attempt to fill the exchequer Government is killing the Indians. Many Indian families are being ruined. Government is administering poison to its subjects with its own hands. To whom shall we tell this sad story and who will hear it?

Are men to be ruined by the sale of poison simply because there is little money in the exchequer? If you have no money, make money by honest means. Earning money by wrong means will only involve you in sin. A Government serves as an example to its subjects. If need compels it to have recourse to dishonest means for making money, its subjects too are sure to have recourse to similar means in famine and poverty.

NAVAYUGA,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th 1891.

We humbly entreat Government to desist from its trade in intoxicants. Let Government retrench its many unnecessary expenses and it will be able to make the two ends meet without dealing in intoxicants. Let Government listen to the good advice of the missionaries and the noiseless cry of the Indians.

ANGANIVASI,
Dec. 11th 1891.

46. The *Banganivasi*, of the 11th December, is glad that, in his speech at St. Andrew's dinner, the Viceroy held out no hopes of an early repeal of the income tax, and said that if there was a surplus in the budget it would be wiser to reduce the salt duty and abolish the export duty on rice—imposts, which affected the poorer classes of the population. Every right-minded person must admit that the salt tax presses heavily on the Indian poor. It was only recently that a poor woman living near Calcutta was punished in the Alipore Court for having prepared a little salt for her own use. There can be no doubt that a tax, the collection of which is attended with so much unavoidable oppression of the poor, ought to be repealed at the very first opportunity. The writer is grateful to the Viceroy for even this expression of sympathy with the Indian poor, contained in his reference to the salt tax. Mr. Mackay expressed the hope that Lord Lansdowne would earn the gratitude of the Indian public by abolishing the income tax before he laid down the reins of office. But the writer can assure His Excellency that he will earn undying fame if he can, before he leaves this country, see his way to repealing the salt duty.

ANJIVANI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

47. The *Sanjivani*, of the 12th December, cannot understand why English officers should not be required to sign their full names on official papers when native officers will be required to do so. Is it with a view of reminding the native at every step that he is not the equal of the Englishman or of the Eurasian, that this race distinction has been made even in the matter of making official signatures?

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

The village of Kadihati near Dum-Dum.
48. The *Prakriti*, of the 12th December, is not willing to believe the rumour that the Government of India will purchase the village of Kadihati near Dum-Dum and compel all its inhabitants to go elsewhere. Will Government be so rash as to wound the religious feelings of these Hindus by obliging them to leave their ancestral homesteads? They will rather go without food than leave their homesteads. It is for Government to judge whether it is advisable, under these circumstances, to oust the Hindus from the village. Then comes the question of money. Government will have to pay an enormous sum for so important a village. Government can avoid every difficulty by making the target face Gopalnagar.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1891.

Extension of the area of Mymensingh town.
49. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 13th December, says that Mr. Phillips will have made his name immortal if he can carry out his proposal for extending the area of Mymensingh town by bridging over the

Brahmaputra. The banks of the Brahmaputra are not so liable to encroachments as those of the Padma, and such slight inroads of the river as take place at present may be put a stop to by engineering skill. The major portion of the expenditure on the bridge may be recovered by levying tolls on it. Every one should pay heed to any suggestion that the Magistrate of Mymensingh may make for the improvement of that large, populous, and backward district. Where can this improvement be looked for if not under Sir Charles Elliott?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1891.

50. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 13th December, says that under the new Factory Act there will be a Factory Inspector in Bengal on a salary of Rs. 700. Well, all that is now wanted to make this business a crowning case of justice to India is to bring a weaver from Manchester and give him the Inspectorship.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

Baboo Durgagati Banerjee, Collector of Calcutta.
51. The *Som Prakash*, of the 14th December, does not understand why the *Indian Daily News* newspaper is talking of the approaching retirement, under the orders of Government, of Baboo Durgagati Banerjee, the present Collector of Calcutta. The Baboo has long served Government with credit and ability, and it is not likely that he has been unceremoniously ordered to retire from the service.

52. The *Gramvazi*, of the 14th December, says that the absence of a sub-

Want of a Sub-Registry Office at Bagnan in the Uluberia sub-division of the Howrah district. registry office at Bagnan in the Uluberia sub-division of the Howrah district causes inconvenience to the people of that place by compelling them to

go all the way to Uluberia for registration. A sub-registry office at Bagnan is expected to yield an income to Government, and there are men in Bagnan, educated as well as well-to-do, to whom the duties of a Registrar could be safely entrusted.

GRAMVASI,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th December, says that the

The coolie question.

coolies in the Assam tea gardens are so dissatisfied because the pay they receive is very small, because

they have to work very hard, and because they are ill-treated by the tea planters. The *Pioneer* has requested Government to take upon itself the charge of supplying tea gardens with coolies. Will Government then carry on a slave trade? Can coolies, in the present state of the country, be expected to proceed to Assam and Cachar without inducements? If the tea planters become a little more kind and generous to coolies, they can have their required coolie supply without the help of coolie recruiters. The writer agrees in the *Pioneer's* suggestion that when the existence of oppression by tea planters in any particular garden is once proved, that garden should no more be supplied with coolies. But the writer will be sorry to see Government take upon itself the charge of supplying coolies. The writer thinks that it will be enough if Government passes an enactment to the effect that the tea garden in which oppression by planters will be proved will not be allowed to work on.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 16th, 1891.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

54. Referring to the extensive adulteration of Indian cotton and wheat,

A law for the punishment of adulteration.

which has had the effect of markedly diminishing the sale of those commodities in the English and continental markets, the *Sahachar*, of the 9th Decem-

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 9th, 1891.

ber, asks Government to pass a law for the prevention and punishment of adulteration not only of wheat and cotton, but of all articles. Adulteration should be made a criminal offence. There is such a law in England, and a law like that has become a necessity in India.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

55. The *Sanjivani*, of the 12th December, says that the rumour of anarchy

Rumour about Cashmere.

and disorder in Cashmere within the short time that

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 12th 1891.

Maharaja Pratap Singh has been restored to power has a very suspicious appearance. One may justly fear that it means fresh troubles for the Maharaja. Cashmere has been in a manner annexed to British territory. Has this cry been raised to bring about its complete annexation?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

56. The *Samay*, of the 11th December, says that there are already

Distress in Madras and the Deccan.

indications of distress this year throughout the Deccan. The rabi crop will completely wither if there be no rainfall within a fortnight. In most

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

places tanks, rivulets, &c., have all been dried up, and people are very much in want of drinking water. Cattle are suffering from scarcity of pasture and fodder, and the men are leaving the country for want of food. The price of rice has risen 20 per cent, and rice is being brought from Calcutta to Bangalore. Such is the state of the country. But the Viceroy declared the other day at the St. Andrew's dinner that in the opinion of the Governor of Madras there was no fear of severe distress this year in Madras and the Deccan.

57. The *Bangavasi*, of the 12th December, learns from its Cuttack corre-
Distress in Cuttack. spondent that distress is gradually spreading over the district. But no proper relief works have been up to this time started. Government seems content with bringing this fact of the existence of distress to the notice of the local zemindars. One or

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

two zemindars have made provisions to a small extent for their own distressed tenants. But that is nothing compared with the requirements of the case. The writer cannot bring himself to believe this ; and tears of blood come to one's eyes to hear this. Is it a fact that though thousands of loyal subjects are suffering from distress Government sits quietly and looks on ? The writer hopes to receive an assurance to the contrary. It is rumoured that His Honour will shortly pay a visit to Orissa.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

58. The *Hitaradi*, of the 12th December, learns from a correspondent of the *Statesman* that, in the storm which lately visited Cuttack, in the small estate of Tikari alone 54,000 houses were destroyed, and 150 men, 8,000

cows, and 600 buffaloes were killed. No account has yet been received of the loss of men and property in other places ; but from the damage caused in Tikari it is easy to imagine the extent of the mischief that has been done to towns. The local zemindars are doing their best to relieve their distressed ryots. The writer is sorry to learn that Government is quite indifferent in this matter, so much so, that even up to this time no able officer has been sent to inquire into the actual condition of the places visited by the storm.

PRAKRITI,
Nov. 12th, 1891.

59. The *Prakriti*, of the 12th December, says that the late storm has done great damage to the crops in Orissa. The Government officials there did not take any steps to save the lives and property of the people. Many lives and much property were lost. Kanoongoes have been deputed to inquire into the loss of life and property. Government has not even now adopted measures anywhere for removing distress. Maharaja Durga Churn Laha has helped his own tenants with money, and the manager of the Kujung Estate has distributed among the tenants rice to the value of Rs. 200, and has also advanced Rs. 600 to poor ryots by way of loan. The distressed people ought to be helped at once. The estate of Tikari has suffered much in the late storm : 54,000 houses were destroyed, 8,000 cows, 600 buffaloes, and 150 men were killed, and 62,000 people have become helpless. Two hundred of the distressed walked over to Cuttack, a distance of 30 miles, and represented their case to the Collector, who ordered them to ask help of the local zemindars. The writer cannot understand why the Collector himself did not help them. Such thoughtlessness on the part of the Government officials is at times productive of serious consequences. The writer requests the Lieutenant-Governor to inquire into this matter.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1891.

60. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 13th December, says that the distress in Madras is gradually becoming more and more terrible. But the Governor of Madras declared only the other day that, as a matter of fact, the distress should cause less fear than it was producing in men's minds, and poured forth the vials of his wrath upon a gentleman in England who had presumed to give him a warning. The Anglo-Indian papers of Madras, which were also so virulent against the gentleman in question, are now taken aback by the intensity of the distress, and declare that the state of the Madras Presidency is deplorable.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

61. The *Som Prakash*, of the 14th December, says that, if instead of visiting Orissa in January next, the Lieutenant-Governor visits it now, His Honour will be able to acquaint himself with the real amount of distress which now prevails in the Pooree and Cuttack districts.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1891.

62. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 9th December, is not sorry for anything that the late Lord Lytton did in India. India now suffers and shall ever suffer insult and indignity at the hands of others for its own sins. The Indians bear oppression with patience. They have borne and will bear the evil effects of Lord Lytton's Indian administration. India is ever grateful to the man who regards it with an eye of affection ; but it is a matter of regret that Lord Lytton returned to England without having earned the gratitude of any one of the 250 millions of the Indian people. There was another point in the deceased Lord which India will not be able to

excuse or forget : his hatred towards his own mother. The Hindu is famous for his devotion to his mother. The Hindu deems his mother more honoured than heaven itself. The man who neglects his mother or does not honour her can never earn the esteem and affection of the Hindu. According to the Hindu religion, a man offends his guardian deity by incurring the displeasure of his mother. The writer prays that the gods and his mother will grant peace to the departed soul of Lord Lytton. The writer is sorry for his sudden death.

Cholera at Halisahar and Baktia
in the Chittagong district.

63. The *Sansodhini*, of the 10th December, complains that cholera rages at Halisahar and Baktia, and says that doctors and medicines should be promptly sent to those places.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

64. The *Navayuga*, of the 10th December, is thankful to His Excellency The ex-Maharaja of Manipur. the Viceroy for having sent the Manager of the Government Toshakhana to represent him at the cremation of the late Surachandra of Manipur.

NAVAYUGA,
Dec. 10th, 1891.

65. The *Pratikar*, of the 11th December, says that a meeting was called by the pleaders of the Berhampore Court at the garden-house of Baboo Golab Chand Nowlakha at Sydabad to present Mr. Page, the late District Judge of Berhampore, with a farewell address. The house was well decorated ; refreshments were provided for European gentlemen ; the notabilities of the district were invited ; and the chief members of the Murshidabad Nawab family, the local zemindars and many European gentlemen were present. It was resolved that a scholarship, to be called Page Scholarship, should be founded to perpetuate Mr. Page's memory.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

66. The same paper says that Jagat Seth Golap Chand is the present representative of the ancient and famous Seth family of Murshidabad. Considering the respect in which the Seth family has always been held, the dignity with which it has always comported itself, and the services it rendered at one time to the British Government, it is not unreasonable to hope that Government will grant Golap Chand's prayer for an allowance:

PRATIKAR.

67. The *Samay*, of the 11th December, says that Mr. Grierson, the Magistrate of Gya, will earn the gratitude of the people of that place, as well as of the general public, if he can persuade the Gya Mussulmans to desist from slaughtering cows within the town.

SAMAY,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

68. The same paper has the following on the death of the late Maharaja Surachandra :—

SAMAY.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of the late Maharaja of Manipore. Deep grief on the one hand and want of food on the other killed Surachandra by inches. He had sought the protection of the English, and was in great hopes that he would receive justice, but his prayers and entreaties did not melt the stony heart of Lord Lansdowne. After the conquest of Manipore the Viceroy declared that Surachandra's monthly allowance of Rs. 250 would be continued only on the condition of his living at Brindaban. Thus the ruler of a State became a street beggar. He who had once fed thousands of people now depended upon the bounty of others for his own subsistence. But the English Government did not render him adequate help. A monthly allowance of Rs. 250 was by no means sufficient for Maharaja Surachandra and his attendants. But the English could not see this. What the English Government really desired was to keep Surachandra under surveillance. These griefs and anxieties broke the heart of Surachandra. Gradually his large family began to feel the pangs of starvation. He had not the means to rent a house for himself. It is said that the house at Kankurgachhi in which he lived was placed at his disposal free of rent by its owner. See how impartial the English Government is. The fugitive Afghan princes are passing their days happily in the healthy mountainous tract of the Terai with money given by the English Government. But the deposed and innocent Surachandra, who sought the protection of the English Government, passed his days with great difficulty in an unhealthy place. His hardships increased every day, and in course of time his family could not afford even one full meal a day. One by one fifty members of his family, including himself, fell ill. The Maharaja's constitution,

which had been broken down by anxiety and grief, grew worse, and he died on Thursday, the 3rd December, and was thus delivered from all his earthly troubles. When he died his family were so absolutely without means that they could not pay the expenses of his cremation. On hearing this, the Viceroy sent the Dewan of the Government Toshakhana with pecuniary help to represent him at the Maharaja's cremation. We pray for the welfare of the Maharaja's soul. His brothers and relatives are now helpless. Will the kind Government take pity on them?

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

69. The *Banganivasi*, of the 11th December, says that death has at last brought to an end all the troubles and misfortunes of Surachandra, the late Maharaja of Manipore. The rejection by the Viceroy of his petition for reinstatement in his guddee, the knowledge that his monthly allowance would be stopped if he did not go to Brindaban, the sad fate which overtook Tikendrajit and the other members of the Manipore royal family,—all these combined to hasten his end. Tikendrajit has been hanged, Kulachandra and others have been transported, and Surachandra has fallen a prey to disease. A child now sits upon the Manipore throne, and the English are now real rulers of that State.

BANGANIVASI.

70. A correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the authorities to the fearful prevalence of cholera and Cholera and malarious fever in malarious fever at Sindrani, a village within the the Jessoro district. Bongong subdivision of the Jessoro district. The local police takes no notice of the action of the cultivators in steeping jute in the only *báor* in the village and thus contaminating the water-supply.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Dec. 11th, 1891.

71. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 11th December, writes a poem in which he bids Kulachandra go with a cheerful heart to the Andamans, and to console himself with the reflection that it is ordained by Providence that his State will make progress in morality and civilisation under the benign rule of mother Victoria.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 12th, 1891.

72. A correspondent writes to the *Sanjivani*, of the 12th December, as follows:—

Sir Charles is reputed to be an able and experienced Governor, who is anxious to inspect the condition of the people with his own eyes—witness His Honour's tour resolution. But does he really remove the grievances of poor people which are brought to his notice? Many numerously signed petitions were sent the Lieutenant-Governor praying for a grant from Rani Manmohini's charitable fund for the supply of pure drinking water in Rajshahye for the purpose of clearing a tank at Pakuria. The receipt of the last of these petitions was acknowledged from the Sonpur fair. But no orders have yet been passed on these petitions. Is the Lieutenant-Govenor's benevolence then confined to particular quarters? The correspondent prays to His Honour to make the grant without delay and thereby provide for the supply of good drinking water at Pakuria.

SANJIVANI

73. The same paper says that the late Maharaja Surachandra abdicated his throne when he saw that no assistance was to be looked for from Mr. Grimwood. He sought justice from the English Government; but, at the instigation of Messrs Grimwood and Quinton, that Government denied him justice. Messrs. Grimwood and Quinton have paid the penalty of their crime in this world. All who have been guilty of injustice to Surachandra have been punished. The Maharaja himself has lately died at Kankurgachhi near Calcutta. The Viceroy showed him some respect after his death. His Excellency sent the Manager of the Government Toshakhana to accompany the Maharaja's corpse to the burning-ghat. The Maharaja has not been able to leave anything for his wife and children. Will Government now continue the monthly allowance of 250 rupees which it paid to Surachandra, or will the royal family of Manipur now beg from door to door for their bread?

SANJIVANI.

74. The same paper complains that copies of the *Englishman* and *Pioneer* newspapers were used for the purpose of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Zenana Hospital at Bettiah, but no local native paper, the

The Zenana Hospital ceremony
at Bettiah.

Behar Herald for instance, was done the honour. Such things come of the native nobility employing English managers to look after their estates.

75. The *Bangavasi*, of the 11th December, says that Maharaja Surachandra died on the morning of the 3rd instant. He had been living in Calcutta, and on the bounty of the British Government, from before the occurrence of the tragic events in Manipur; but he has not had to live long in this wretched condition. On hearing the news of his death, the Viceroy sent the Manager of the Government Toshakhana to represent him at his cremation.

Oppression by English soldiers at Dum-Dum. 76. A correspondent of the same paper complains that English soldiers at Dum-Dum enter into the interior of the village Hati-Ara near that place and harass the villagers by committing various acts of oppression upon them.

Malaria at Santipur in the Nuddea district. 77. A correspondent of the same paper says that malaria is so prevalent at Santipur in the Nuddea district that 20 or 25 persons are dying of it every day. The correspondent also complains that tigers have made their appearance and are making great ravages in the locality. They have killed 2 or 3 adults, 4 or 5 children, and cattle to the number of 20 or 25.

Want of water in a village in the Pubna district. 78. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the great inconvenience which the people of Shujanagar in Pubna are feeling for utter want of drinking water. The one tank that existed at a distance of 5 or 6 miles has been filled up with sand from the Pudma, and one shudders to think of the difficulty which the people of this and the adjacent villages will be put to during the next hot season. The Deputy Collector and the Engineer have personally witnessed the sufferings of the people, but no steps have as yet been taken to remove them.

Want of drinking water in a village in the Rajshahye district. 79. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the utter want of good drinking water in Pakuria in the Rajshahye district, and says that earnest appeals have been made to the Lieutenant-Governor asking His Honour to grant the expenses of removing the silt from a tank in the village from the charitable fund created by the Rani of Putia for the supply of good drinking water in the district; but no measures have up to this time been devised to remove the want. It is hoped that His Honour will soon grant the prayer of the villagers and thereby save the lives of thousands of suffering people.

Sir John Edgar. 80. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 13th December, says that Sir John Edgar is proceeding to Madras on leave, and will go to England on the approach of spring and will not probably return to India again. He, too, is not pulling well with Sir Charles Elliott.

The late Maharaja Surachandra and his brothers. 81. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 14th December, has the following:— It is rumoured that the two brothers of the late Maharaja Surachandra are bedridden. The case of one of them, Pakka Sinha, is very bad. The loss of their half-brother was keenly felt by them, and want of food and clothing has added to their misery. Death has freed Surachandra from all worldly cares. There is little chance of Pakka Sinha's recovery. It is no wonder that Anglo-Indians of the type of the *Pioneer* should exult over such a calamity and lay the whole blame of this state of things on the shoulders of the Manipur Princes themselves. The Manipur Princes did not agree to leave Calcutta and to give up their national customs, and the *Pioneer* says their sufferings are due to their refusal to do this. One of the Princes is dead, and it is probable that one or two more will die. And it is better that they should die. But neither the *Pioneer* nor the *Englishman* will be able to exonerate the deceased Quinton or the living Lord Lansdowne from blame for the Manipur tragedy. It is for the public to judge of what stuff those men are made who, like the *Pioneer*, do not scruple to slay the thrice slain and to vent their wrath against fallen foes.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1891.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1891.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHAKA,
Nov. 28th, 1891.

Cholera in Balasore town.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 28th, 1891.

Cholera in the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 28th, 1891

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1891.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 28th 1891.

82. The *Samvadvahika*, of the 26th November, reports that cholera is raging virulently in the Balasore town.

83. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 28th November, states that the residents of some of the villages in the Kendrapara sub-division of the Cuttack district, as well as the inhabitants of those parts of that district that were affected by the late cyclone, are suffering from the same disease.

84. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 21st and 28th November, testifies to the existence of a large amount of actual distress in the interior of the Cuttack district due to the late cyclone, and implores the authorities to supply food to the famished and remove the dead bodies of animals now lying strewn in the villages and emitting nauseous odour all around. The Collector of Cuttack should have proceeded to the distressed parts of the district and taken active measures to save people from the effects of starvation.

85. Adverting to the extension of certain sections of India Act VIII of 1885 (The Bengal Tenancy Act) to the Province of Orissa, the *Utkaldipika*, of the 21st November, observes that the fact should be widely notified to landlords and tenants in the Province, most of whom are yet ignorant of the consequences of the extension.

86. Referring to the Resolution of Government sanctioning an additional number of appointments in the Judicial branch of the Public Service, the same paper suggests that a certain number of Uriyas, who have passed the B.L. examination of the Calcutta University, and who are practising in the Orissa bar, should be appointed to the newly created posts.

87. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 21st and 28th November, reports that the public have the following complaints against the Settlement Officers of Orissa and the Government.

(a) Ministerial appointments in the Settlement Department are disposed of without advertising the vacancies in newspapers and without selecting the best men by a competitive examination.

(b) Sufficient time is not given to the zemindars to fill up the headings of the different forms that are required of them; the fine imposed on them in the event of their failing to submit such forms in time is unnecessarily heavy; they are required both by the head office and the subdivisional offices *at one and the same time* to submit such forms, which should by no means be permitted; and the forms, facts, figures, &c., required by the Settlement Office are not published in the local papers for the better information and guidance of the zemindars, and no time is authoritatively sanctioned for the submission of such forms, &c., it being very improper to let the question of time to be determined by individual discretion.

(c) The decision of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that an appeal from the order of a Settlement Officer must bear a stamp of Rs. 10 under clause VI, article 17, schedule II of India Act VII of 1870 (the Court Fees Act, 1870) is unjust and oppressive on the following grounds:—

(1) That the appellants in settlement proceedings under chapter X of India Act VIII of 1885 (the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885) were hitherto paying a fee of eight annas under Clause (a), article II, schedule II of the Indian Court Fees Act, 1870, and that the change from eight annas to ten rupees has been very sudden.

(2) That many of the zemindars in Orissa are petty landlords owning properties of small values, and that, so far as they are concerned, the order is tantamount to a denial of justice by precluding them for ever from enjoying the privileges and benefits which an appellate court is ordained by law to confer.

(3) That a fee of ten rupees added to a large amount of miscellaneous expense that is now-a-days incidental to the proceedings of a settlement office in Orissa is no doubt oppressive in the case of petty zemindars, of whom a large number exist in Orissa.

(4) That His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is wrong in holding that clause VI, article 17, schedule II of the Court Fees Act applies to appeals under chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act ; that the clause in question applies to civil appeals where the original suits bore a stamp of rupees ten ; that applications or petitions to a Revenue Board or a Commissioner of Revenue relating to matters connected with the settlement of the land revenue are exempted from the payment of any fee under clause IX of section 19 of the Court Fees Act, and what could be these applications to a Revenue Board or a Commissioner of Revenue in 1870, when settlement was not treated as now—a technical subject remaining in the charge of a special department, but appeals from the orders of subordinate settlement officers ? ; that at any rate it was never the intention of the Legislature to fix a fee of ten rupees for settlement appeals, as all settlement petitions are exempted from stamps, else the fact would have been clearly stated, and that the zemindars of Orissa ought to carry on an agitation until relief is granted.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 19th December 1891.

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